



August 10, 2015

Dear Community Leaders,

Teacher's Pet: Dogs and Kids Learning Together supports the following proposed legislation and pet store program. We ask that Michigan community leaders encourage humane pet acquisitions through shelters and foster-based animal rescue organizations to reduce the number of unwanted dogs and cats.

1. The Large Scale Commercial Dog Breeder Act SB 339 and HB 4898 will help to curb puppy mills in the state.
2. The Humane Pet Acquisition Ordinance to prohibit the retail sale of dogs, cats, rabbits, ferrets, long-loved birds and large reptiles in local communities, and to protect families from irresponsible pet retailers.
3. The Puppy Friendly Pet Store program encourages pet supply stores to make an official policy not to sell puppies or kittens.

Dogs enter the shelter system for a variety of reasons. Some are surrendered because of the owners' failure or inability to care for their dog. Countless other come in as strays. To help with this ongoing crisis, Teacher's Pet offers an intervention program that pairs troubled youth with hard-to-adopt shelter dogs for a multi-week workshop that includes dog training and humane education in an effort to make dogs more adoptable and more likely to remain in their homes permanently.

Teacher's Pet also empowers at-risk youth to improve in the areas of empathy, patience, impulse control, perseverance and hope. Participants are paired with the harder-to-adopt rescue dogs for positive, reward-based dog training to increase the dogs' adoptability by learning proper in home behaviors. We run programs year round at the Macomb Juvenile Justice Center in Mt. Clemens, Children's Village on Pontiac, Crossroads for Youth in Oxford and Kinglsey Montgomery in Waterford.

Teacher's Pet works with dogs from Macomb County Animal Control, the Oakland County Adoption Center and K-9 Stray Rescue League. Through our program, we see so many wonderful companions forced to sit and wait in shelters for new homes. Promoting adoptions and ending the sales of puppies from mills is a solution that makes sense.

Sincerely,

Amy Johnson  
Director

Teacher's Pet: Dogs and Kids Learning Together  
[www.teacherspetmi.org](http://www.teacherspetmi.org)